



# 50 YEARS of CDBG

Community Development Block Grant Program

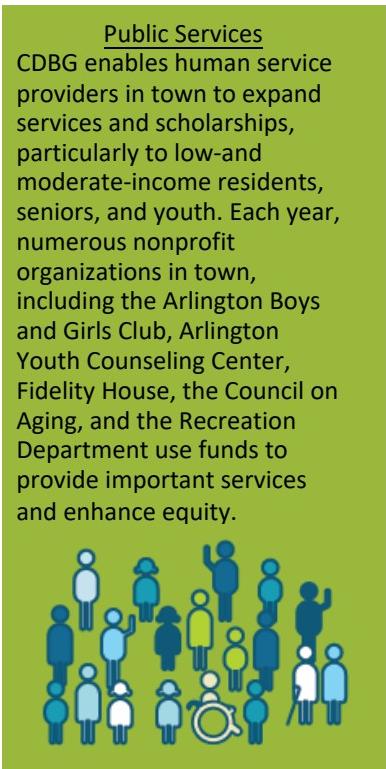


**What is CDBG?** Authorized in 1974, the CDBG program is one of the longest continuously run programs at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a flexible program that provides communities with funding which allows them to make decisions about how best to address critical and unmet community needs. CDBG funded programs support affordable housing, infrastructure and public facilities improvements, economic development, and social services. Each CDBG program activity must meet one of three HUD national objectives: (1) benefit low- and moderate-income people; (2) address urgent health and safety needs in the community; or (3) eliminate slums and blight.

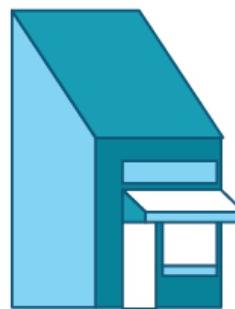
**How does CDBG impact Arlington?** Arlington has received CDBG grants annually since 1975. Each year, nonprofit organizations and Town departments apply for a portion of the annual grant for projects. Those who receive funding (subrecipients) set goals for the number of individuals they plan to serve, housing units they aim to preserve, jobs they seek to retain or create, or another metric, which the Department of Planning and Community Development uses to measure progress. In recent years, the Town has received grants of about \$1 million annually. Since 1975, Arlington has received over \$58 million from HUD and leveraged millions more through subrecipients' other public and private sources.



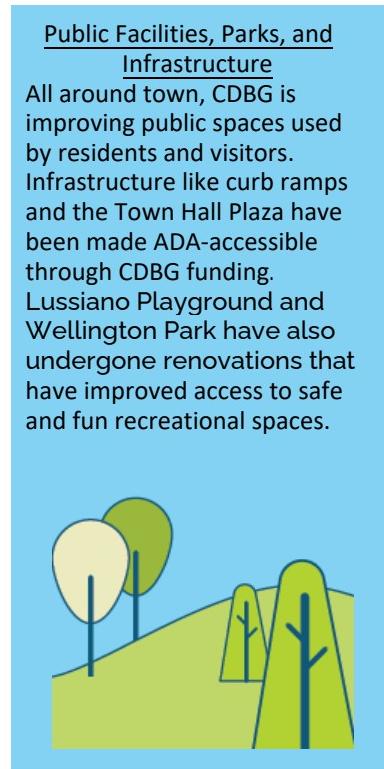
**Affordable Housing**  
CDBG helps to preserve and create affordable housing in Arlington. Affordable housing rehabilitation is one of the primary goals Arlington set forth in its most recent 5-year plan for CDBG. The Arlington Housing Authority, Housing Corporation of Arlington, and Caritas Communities have leveraged CDBG funding to improve and expand the affordable housing supply in town.



**Public Services**  
CDBG enables human service providers in town to expand services and scholarships, particularly to low-and moderate-income residents, seniors, and youth. Each year, numerous nonprofit organizations in town, including the Arlington Boys and Girls Club, Arlington Youth Counseling Center, Fidelity House, the Council on Aging, and the Recreation Department use funds to provide important services and enhance equity.



**Economic Development**  
Throughout Arlington's business districts, CDBG funds are supporting the creation and retention of jobs and helping small businesses stay viable, through both direct working capital and technical assistance. These grants help the small business community stay vibrant. During the Covid-19 pandemic, CDBG funding supported dozens of businesses and jobs.



**Public Facilities, Parks, and Infrastructure**  
All around town, CDBG is improving public spaces used by residents and visitors. Infrastructure like curb ramps and the Town Hall Plaza have been made ADA-accessible through CDBG funding. Lussiano Playground and Wellington Park have also undergone renovations that have improved access to safe and fun recreational spaces.

**How can I learn more?** Citizen Participation is a key element of the CDBG program. Citizens are given the opportunity to attend public hearings, to review proposed activities, and provide input. Each year, the Town of Arlington holds at least two public hearings and invites both verbal and written comment. The CDBG Subcommittee, the body tasked with reviewing applications and making recommendations for funding, also holds several meetings each year, which are open to the public. Information and plans pertaining to CDBG can be found at [arlingtonma.gov/cdbg](http://arlingtonma.gov/cdbg). Nonprofit organizations interested in funding should note that the funding application is available each December, for the program year commencing the following July.

